

JIM BUNNING
KENTUCKY

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BUDGET

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 28, 2003

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
316 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-4343

MAIN KENTUCKY OFFICE:
1717 DIXIE HIGHWAY, SUITE 220
FORT WRIGHT, KY 41011
(859) 341-2602

Honorable Norman Y. Mineta
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, SW, Suite 10200
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Application of Republic Airline, Inc.
Docket OST-2003-14579

Dear Secretary Mineta:

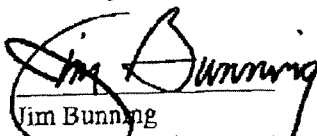
I am writing regarding Republic's application for certificate of public convenience and necessity. Republic is proposing to start a new airline based at the Louisville International Airport. This is an important development for Louisville and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, creating significant new transportation and employment benefits.

The Louisville International Airport was reconstructed in the 1990's and now boasts a modern dual-parallel runway layout with a supplemental crosswind runway. Moreover, Louisville is ideally geographically situated for air carrier operations. It is less than two hours' flying time from all major population centers in the Eastern United States, and is a prime gateway to the West.

I am confident that Louisville, with its proven record of performance in aviation, would provide Republic with the opportunity to prosper as a new player in the regional express carrier market. The Louisville region has a skilled workforce, including expertise in aviation. These attributes make Louisville an ideal location to start a new carrier.

I urge your full and fair consideration of Republic's application.

Sincerely,


Jim Bunning
United States Senator

HAZARD OFFICE:
601 MAIN STREET
SUITE 2
HAZARD, KY 41701
(606) 435-2300

HOPKINSVILLE OFFICE:
1100 SOUTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 12
HOPKINSVILLE, KY 42240
(270) 885-1212

LEXINGTON OFFICE:
771 CORPORATE DRIVE
SUITE 105
LEXINGTON, KY 40503
(606) 219-2239

LOUISVILLE OFFICE:
600 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PLACE
ROOM 1072B
LOUISVILLE, KY 40203
(502) 587-3341

OWENSBORO OFFICE:
423 FREDERICK STREET
ROOM 306
OWENSBORO, KY 42301
(270) 689-8085

Toll-Free 1-800-283-8983
E-Mail: jim_bunning@bunning.senate.gov